United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, says it will consider sending mission to Mozambique to discuss implementation of General Peace Agreement and holding of October elections; stresses need to demobilize troops and form new Defence Force.

+ As new Government of national unity takes office in Rwanda, Secretary-General appeals for assurances of safety for returning refugees; UNHCR says exodus into Zairean town of Goma has stopped.

+ Fifth Committee recommends General Assembly establish Office of Internal Oversight Services headed by Under-Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General condemns attack on UNOSOM II peace-keepers in Mogadishu, citing worsening security situation in Somalia.

+ Secretary-General expresses horror after bomb explosion in Buenos Aires causes many casualties.

+ Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq says his country has cooperated with international community in implementing Security Council resolutions; alleges that sanctions regime is being maintained illegally to prop up oil prices.

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The Security Council today said it would consider sending a mission to Mozambique to discuss how to ensure full and timely implementation of the General Peace Agreement, and the holding of national elections on 27 and 28 October. In a statement read out by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council welcomed the progress made in implementing the Agreement, particularly in the electoral sphere. However, it stressed that there should be no further delay in demobilizing forces and forming the new Mozambican Defence Force. It was essential that demobilization be completed by 15 August and that the difficulties of forming the Defence Force be addressed quickly and flexibly.

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The Council reiterated the need to extend civil administration throughout Mozambique. It again called on all parties, especially the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), to allow unimpeded access to areas under their control to all political forces, in order to ensure political activity throughout the country. The Council said it would endorse the election results provided the United Nations reported them as free and fair, and reminded all Mozambican parties of their obligation to fully respect them.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed to the new Government in Rwanda to reassure people who had fled the country that they would be safe when they returned home. The Secretary-General also asked Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to urge the new Government to make a major effort towards national reconciliation. The broad-based Government of national unity was sworn in earlier today in Kigali, at a ceremony attended by Special Representative Shahryar Khan and the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), General Romeo Dallaire.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the massive influx of refugees into the Zairean town of Goma had stopped yesterday, after Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) forces were deployed at the border. However, 100,000 people had arrived in Bukavu, and there were reports that another 400,000 were flooding into Uvira from southwestern Rwanda. The latest exodus would bring the number of refugees in Zaire, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania to over 2.1 million.

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The General Assembly would establish an Office of Internal Oversight Services headed by an official with the rank of Under-Secretary-General, under a draft text approved today by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). The Office would take over the functions of the Office for Inspections and Investigations created last year by the Secretary-General and would help him fulfil internal oversight duties. Operating independently under the Secretary-General, its tasks would include monitoring, internal auditing, inspections and investigations.

The United States Representative, Madeleine Albright, called the approved text "a victory for taxpayers around the world". The Office would have access to documents and protect whistle blowers, she said. Its establishment was the greatest step towards making the United Nations more efficient and accountable.

The Committee also recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $140 million gross monthly for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for 1 October to 30 November 1994, if continued beyond September. It would authorize up to $25 million for liquidating the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) from 16 November to 31 January, and an extra $10 million for the United Nations

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Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for six months from 22 April.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned an attack yesterday on peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). Two Malaysian troops were killed and two others were seriously injured in the incident, which took place in Mogadishu.

The Secretary-General said it was unpardonable that the attackers should turn against those who had come to help them. The incident underscored the degradation of the security situation on the ground and the need for a critical review of United Nations operations in Somalia, he concluded.

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** Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the bomb explosion in the Argentinian capital of Buenos Aires yesterday. He expressed horror at the attack, which killed and injured scores of people. A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General had consistently denounced such acts of terrorism and he condemned this one in the strongest possible terms.

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The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, today said that the maintenance of Security Council sanctions against his country was immoral, unjust, and contrary to international law. He told correspondents at Headquarters that Iraq was cooperating with the international community by meeting its obligations under Council resolutions. That cooperation had been recognized by the United Nations Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but had been denied by the United States. He contended that the sanctions were being maintained in order to support oil prices -- on behalf of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait -- by keeping Iraqi exports off the market.

Mr. Aziz rejected yesterday's statement by United States Permanent Representative Madeline Albright that there was only scant evidence of Iraq's readiness to meet its obligations. He said that the statement contained contradictions and falsifications, and that a significant number of Council members had recognized Iraq's progress in implementing the resolutions in question. He went on to say that the sanctions regime had led to malnutrition and higher mortality rates in Iraq, and alleged that the country was being starved so that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait could pay their bills.

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